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FILE ONE

Walters feels Shultz betrayed him in U.N. role

By Roger Fontaine
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Ambassador Vernon A. Walters, President Reagan's choice to replace Jeane J. Kirkpatrick as U.S. envoy to the United Nations, feels he has been "betrayed" by Secretary of State George P. Shultz on the exact role he will play as U.N. ambassador, The Washington Times has learned.

He is prepared to refuse the assignment if the current arrangement is not changed, administration sources said yesterday.

"He feels betrayed," said a source. "He is not about to accept a job that has been shrunk to fit him."

According to the sources, Mr. Walters previously understood that by retaining cabinet rank — a bone of contention for many secretaries of state, past and present — it would automatically guarantee him access to high-level meetings such as those of the National Security Council.

Apparently, however, Mr. Walters has discovered that Mr. Shultz intends to bar him from NSC and other high-level meetings which virtually guarantees no direct access to the president. Unless he is allowed to attend these sensitive meetings, he will not take the job, according to these sources.

Mr. Walters, who has served as ambassador-at-large for the Reagan administration and was deputy director of the CIA under President Nixon, already has informed Robert

C. McFarlane, the president's national security adviser, that he intends to see Vice President George Bush and President Reagan on a matter involving the touchy question of the authority and prerogatives of the American ambassador to the United Nations, the sources said.

Mr. Walters is said to be angry after discovering that the agreement he entered into with Secretary Shultz was not what he thought it would be. Although he feels "lied to" by Mr. Shultz, he does not want to cause embarrassment for the administration he has served for four years.

Secretaries of state have always resisted giving cabinet rank status to the U.N. envoy, who is nominally under their authority. But presidents have given the U.N. ambassador that privilege since Dwight D. Eisenhower included Henry Cabot Lodge at his cabinet meetings.

The tradition continued with Mr. Reagan. Mrs. Kirkpatrick retained that right, which included the right to attend NSC and other highly restricted meetings. Moreover, Mrs. Kirkpatrick was known to have direct access to the president.

In light of precedent, the reduced status is unacceptable to Mr. Walters, according to the sources. He plans to tell the president and vice president that unless he is allowed to attend the high-level meetings he will refuse the appointment.